



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

March 01, 2022

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. John Elliott, Chairman, District I
Mr. Paul Cain, Vice Chairman, District III
Mr. Julian Davis III, Chairman Pro Tem, District IV
Mr. Glenn Hart, District V
Mr. Matthew Durham, District II

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, & Jennifer C. Adams, Clerk to Council present.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeesc.com/council]. In addition, it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members of the press present: Riley Morningstar / The Journal, Dick Mangrum / WGOG

Call to Order

Mr. Elliott called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Elliott opened the meeting reminding the public they have two opportunities to speak during Council meetings, which is during the public comment session and also during the public hearing session, if scheduled. Other than those two instances, the public should remain silent during the Council meeting. Anyone making a disturbance during the meeting will be asked to leave Council Chambers for the remainder of the meeting.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Elliott asked for a moment of silence in recognition of the freedom fighters in Ukraine prior to the Invocation by County Council Chaplain.

Invocation by County Council Chaplain

Mr. Root, County Council Chaplain, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Cain led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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Approval of Minutes

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve the February 15, 2022 regular minutes as presented.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve the February 18, 2022 Strategic Planning Retreat minutes as presented.

Attorney's Comments

None at this meeting.

Administrator's Comments

Ms. Brock invited the public and reminded Council of the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Bountyland Fire Substation, scheduled for Friday, March 11, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at Maranatha Church on Hwy 188.

Presentation to Council

Mr. Grant Davis with Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC, an independent auditing firm, addressed Council utilizing a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Oconee County, South Carolina Financial & Compliance Audit – June 30, 2021" [copy filed with backup material] with references to the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACRF), which can be viewed by visiting <https://oconeesc.com/finance-home/financial-transparency> and gave a brief presentation.

Public Comment Session

If you are not able to attend in person and you have a comment, you may submit it by contacting our Clerk to Council, Jennifer C. Adams at jennifercadams@oconeesc.com or 864-718-1023, so that she may receive your comment and read it into the record.

Mr. Elliott opened the floor for Public Comment.

Mr. David Dial addressed Council concerning road conditions in Oconee County and differentiating between County and State roads and signs.

Mr. John Morrey addressed Council in support of increasing Oconee County Law Enforcement salaries.

Mr. Mickey Haney addressed Council regarding Oconee County property taxes, scope sheets from departments seeking additional funds, and in opposition to the Greenway Trail System.

Mr. Bruce Burrell addressed Council in regards to locations of County Convenience Centers, the possibility of connecting city water lines in the Tamassee DAR / Picket Post communities, and in opposition to the Greenway Trail System.

Council Members Comments

Mr. Durham responded to all citizen's comments that spoke during the Public Comment session.

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Mr. Davis responded to Mr. Burrell's questions about connecting city water lines the Tamassee DAR / Picket Post area by stating that would be a decision for the City of Salem and the City of Walhalla.

Mr. Davis also offered some clarification to questions that were asked about the County Convenience Center's and their locations.

Mr. Cain addressed public comments regarding the possibility of a Greenway Trail System in Oconee County and informed the citizens that Oconee County was not awarded that Federal Grant.

Mr. Cain went into further detail about the funding of a Greenway Trail System and how the 2020 Comprehensive Plan for Oconee County included directing Council to seek funding for these types of projects.

Mr. Durham stated that with the addition of the bike lane on Hwy 11, he believes that the County is meeting the objective outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Durham agreed with Mr. Markovich and his comments related to a By-Pass in Clemson and the Greenway Trail System that he made at a previous Council meeting.

Public Hearings for the Following Ordinances *If you would like to be heard during either of the public hearings, please contact Clerk to Council Jennifer C. Adams at jennifercadams@oconeesc.com or 864-718-1023 so that your participation by may be coordinated*

ORDINANCE 2022-05 AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Elliott opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Elliott opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council and no citizen submitted or presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Elliott closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2022-05**.

ORDINANCE 2022-07 AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF A PORTION OF LOCAL CORONAVIRUS FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDING UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 ("ARPA"), FOR PURPOSES OF ESTABLISHING "PREMIUM PAY" TO ELIGIBLE OCONEE COUNTY EMPLOYEES; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

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Mr. Elliott closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2022-07**.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2022-05 AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve **Ordinance 2022-05**.

Mr. Durham asked if anyone on staff received any feedback from the citizens that were sent the notification mailings concerning redistricting.

Ms. Brock responded to Mr. Durham stating that to her knowledge no department, including Administration, Clerk, and Voter Registration and Elections, has received any feedback.

Mr. Root addressed Mr. Durham and Council stating that he received 3-4 emails, and about that many calls, related to the redistricting and most were just wanting clarification.

Mr. Root also reminded Council of the presentation on redistricting that he presented to the League of Women Voters.

Motion approved 5 – 0 on third and final reading.

ORDINANCE 2022-07 AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF A PORTION OF LOCAL CORONAVIRUS FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDING UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (“ARPA”), FOR PURPOSES OF ESTABLISHING “PREMIUM PAY” TO ELIGIBLE OCONEE COUNTY EMPLOYEES; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2022-07** on third and final reading.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2022-08 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING, PURSUANT TO TITLE 12, CHAPTER 44 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AND SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND A COMPANY IDENTIFIED FOR THE TIME BEING AS PROJECT QUESO, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE CURRENT OR FUTURE AFFILIATES AND OTHER PROJECT COMPANIES (COLLECTIVELY, “COMPANY”); PROVIDING FOR A FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES INCENTIVE; PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT; CREATING A JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AND PICKENS COUNTY SO AS TO DESIGNATE THE

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PROPERTY OF THE PROJECT AS PART OF THE PARK; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ONE OR MORE GRANT AGREEMENTS; AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE FOR PROJECT QUESO; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2022-08** on second reading.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

None scheduled for this meeting.

First & Final Reading for the Following Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2022-07 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY / OCONEE COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY COMMISSION.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Resolution 2022-07** on first and final reading.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Discuss **Ordinance 2021-11**, regarding Historical Memorials, as referred back to County Council from the Arts and Historical Commission.

Mr. Elliot stated that the Arts and Historical Commission is seeking to update a certain attachment mentioned within **Ordinance 2021-11**.

Mr. Root offered further clarification as to what the Arts and Historical Commission is seeking related to section 1-102-D within **Ordinance 2021-11**.

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, to direct County Attorney to draft an amended ordinance protecting historical memorials for Council consideration.

Short discussion followed between Council and the County Attorney related to historical memorials within the County.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

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Council Committee Reports

Mr. Hart provided information outlining discussions held at the February 15, 2022 Transportation Committee.

Mr. Davis provided information outlining discussions held at the February 15, 2022 Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health, & Welfare Committee.

Board & Commission Appointments

Building Codes Appeal Board

1 At-Large Seat: No questionnaire on file for this seat

Arts and Historical Commission

District 3 Seat: No questionnaire on file for this seat

At-Large Seat: No questionnaire on file for this seat

Executive Session:

None scheduled for this meeting.

Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council

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